



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

October 28, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
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VERDALE/SIMI AND GRAND PRIX FIRE STATUS REPORT AS OF 11:30 A.M.

The Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) remains activated in response to these wildfires. The CEOC has remained in close contact with affected cities, including Claremont, La Verne, Los Angeles, and Santa Clarita. The CEOC has also remained in contact with the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the American Red Cross.

Yesterday, the President declared a major disaster for the State of California. This declaration triggers the release of federal funds to assist in the recovery from these wildfires. The Office of Emergency Management will be working closely with OES on the application process. A conference call with OES is scheduled for this morning to discuss the various types of assistance that will be provided. I will keep your Board informed on the status of the assistance that has become available to those who have been affected by the fires.

STATUS OF THE FIRES

The Verdale fire has burned 8,650 acres and is one-hundred percent contained. The estimated fire fighting cost for Los Angeles County is \$2.3 million.

The Grandprix fire has consumed over 57,000 acres and is thirty-five percent contained. There have been sixty-five homes destroyed in the Claremont area. Estimated fire fighting cost for Los Angeles County is \$2.1 million.

The Simi fire is currently burning in a northeasternly direction, and the objective is to keep the fire out of the Santa Clarita Valley and the Porter Ranch area. To date, the fire has consumed over ninety-two thousand acres and sixty-six hundred of them are in Los Angeles County. There have been sixteen homes destroyed in Ventura County.

The estimated fire fighting cost for Los Angeles County is \$3.5 million. All evacuations are voluntary at this time.

Granada Hills High School's shelter remains open. There is a current population of thirty-seven evacuees at the shelter. A new shelter has been opened at Kennedy High School, 11254 Gothic, Granada Hills.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Below are reports of activities of other County departments.

Sheriff

The Sheriff's Department continues to coordinate mutual aid response for law enforcement, conduct evacuations, and provide security in the evacuation areas. The Sheriff's department operations center (DOC) remains activated and continues to monitor the situation and deploy staff, as needed. They also continue to conduct arson patrols in the affected areas.

Probation

The Probation Department is on fire watch at their facilities located in Sylmar, Calabasas, Malibu, Saugus, Lake Hughes, San Dimas, and La Verne.

Public Social Services (DPSS)

DPSS continues to work closely with the American Red Cross on shelter issues and is prepared to coordinate the deployment of care and shelter emergency response staff, if needed.

Animal Care and Control

Animal Care and Control is on stand-by to be deployed to the Calabasas area, if needed. They have activated their Emergency Operations Center in the Agoura Shelter. It is currently a low-level activation. A sheltering site is set-up at Pierce College and 100 horses have been evacuated to this site.

Health Services

Department of Health Services conducted a ReadyNet survey of the hospitals countywide to determine the impact of respiratory cases. Sixty percent of the hospitals in Los Angeles County reported that there was no increase in patients arriving with respiratory complaints. Thirty percent reported that there was an increase. In reviewing hospitals in the fire areas, the report was the same.

RECOVERY PLANNING

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released a toll-free telephone registration number (800) 621-FEMA for victims to apply for Federal Disaster Assistance. Info-Line has information about services available on the County Public Information Hotline at (800) 980-4990. OEM will monitor and keep you informed on all federal programs that become available.

DEJ:CP
YP:cm

c: Emergency Management Council
 EMC Steering Committee
 EMC Subcommittee